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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 002478

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRC PRESIDENT

Classified By: Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Goldberg.
Reasons 1.4 (b), (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Following his August 28 credentialing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, the Ambassador outlined for PRC President Hu Jintao his and President Obama's vision for the U.S.-China relationship and the goals of his mission. The Ambassador said he wanted to build a more "stable, positive, constructive and comprehensive" U.S.-China relationship. President Hu concurred, adding that U.S.-China relations were "enjoying good momentum" thanks to both sides' efforts to implement the consensus reached by the two Presidents in London in April. Both the Ambassador and President Hu looked forward to President Obama's visit to China in November as the capstone to a significant year in U.S.-China relations. End summary.

Building the Relationship

¶2. (SBU) In a 20-minute meeting following the Ambassador's presentation of credentials August 28 at the Great Hall of the People, President Hu complimented the Ambassador's rich political experience and familiarity with China. Noting media reports that President Obama had chosen a true "China hand" to be U.S. ambassador to the PRC, President Hu offered his government's full assistance to the Ambassador's efforts to build the U.S.-China relationship.

¶3. (C) The Ambassador, accompanied by the DCM, PolMinCouns, interpreter and PolOff (notetaker), thanked President Hu for his comments, expressed pleasure at being in Beijing, and noted the great honor it was to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to China. The Ambassador, noting that the call from President Obama had been unexpected, said he would like to build a more "stable, positive, constructive and comprehensive" relationship with China. President Obama had a good feel for the U.S.-China relationship, had established a good relationship with President Hu, and was looking forward to his trip to China in November. The Ambassador expressed hope that by the end of the year the U.S.-China relationship would be at its most stable and positive in the last 30 years.

Presidents' Consensus and National Differences

¶4. (C) President Hu responded that as result of "hard work" by both sides, U.S.-China relations were "enjoying good momentum" and there was "comprehensive progress across the spectrum of the relationship." Hu spoke positively of his April meeting with the President in London, at which the two Presidents had agreed to build a "positive, cooperative and comprehensive U.S.-China relationship for the 21st century, had launched the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (SnED) in July, and had "reached consensus on other matters." He called the SnED "productive" and noted that both governments were working hard to implement the SnED outcomes.

¶15. (C) The United States and China were influential countries and faced common global challenges, President Hu continued. To develop "positive, cooperative and comprehensive" relations was in both countries' fundamental interest as well as in the interest of "peace, stability, and development" around the world. It was important to manage the relationship "from a strategic height and long-term perspective" and to increase exchange between the two countries. Because of "differences in history, culture, social systems, and development level," disputes were inevitable, but there could be "good progress" between the two countries if the two sides "treated each other with mutual respect, dealt with each other as equals, engaged in consultation, and handled carefully each other's core interests."

Unprecedented Opportunities

¶16. (C) In response, the Ambassador pointed out that the upcoming year presented unprecedented opportunity for U.S.-China cooperation. The world depended on the well-being of our bilateral relationship. He told President Hu he had been closely following the U.S.-China relationship since his first trip to China in 1983 as part of the advance team for President Reagan's 1984 visit, and so he knew how much the relationship had evolved. Generally speaking, despite disagreements, U.S. and PRC leaders had remained focused on keeping their nations' mutual interests in the forefront. We would have to work hard to resolve issues between us, and communicating "openly, respectfully and as equals" was the

BEIJING 00002478 002 OF 002

only way the relationship could succeed. Referencing a Chinese saying that he had used during the President's announcement of his appointment, the Ambassador said that the United States and China needed to "to help each other and to learn from each other ("huxiang bangmang, huxiang xuexi").

¶17. (C) President Hu replied that he had noted the Ambassador's confirmation hearing remarks and expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's desire and determination to push forward the U.S.-China relationship. "There are valuable opportunities to develop the relationship, and we are prepared to work in concert with the United States to improve the relationship." Hu added that he was looking forward to seeing President Obama in September in New York and Pittsburgh and welcomed the President to conduct a state visit to China in November. The "whole world will be watching" this "memorable visit." Both sides should work hard to ensure the visit would be a success.

¶18. (C) In closing, the Ambassador declared that this would be an important year for the U.S.-China relationship. With the SnED, the JCCT, and the Presidential visit and, the two countries would have had many opportunities to interact and work together on key global issues such as climate change and the environment, regional security and global finance. Without the United States and China working together, the solution to any of these global problems would be incomplete.

¶19. (U) The Ambassador presented President Hu with a ping-pong paddle celebrating 30 years of U.S.-China relations and a Chicago picture book with a commemorative "Chicago 2016" relay baton, noting that Chicago would be an excellent host for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

HUNTSMAN